

Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Restriction Requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has set forth a Restriction Requirement with regard to claims 1-12.

The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

Group I, claims 1-11, class 442, subclass 59; and

Group II, claim 12, class 134, subclass 6.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, Applicant has elected claims 1-12 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement since no serious burden would be presented to the Examiner by examining all of the claims in a single application.

As set forth in section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for proper requirement for Restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the Restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in the single application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider all of the claims in the present application and to withdraw the Restriction Requirement.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, claims 1-11 have been elected with traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if it is so desired.

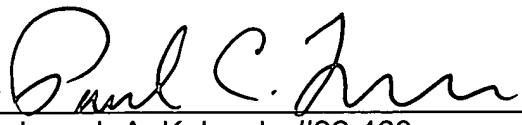
Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Paul C. Lewis (Reg. No. 43,368) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
for Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463  
#43,368  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

JAK/PCL/cl  
0445-0313P